United Nations A/61/429

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 69

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled:

> "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:
>
> "(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;
>
> "(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;
>
> "(c) Participation of volunteers, 'White Helmets', in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development;
>
> "(d) Assistance to the Palestinian people"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.[1]

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate jointly on sub-items (b) and (c) at its 11th meeting, on 11 October 2006. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary record (A/C.2/61/SR.11). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 2 to 4 October (see A/C.2/61/SR.2-6).

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/61/429 and Add.1 and 2.

[1] Sub-items (a) and (d) were allocated to plenary meetings.

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An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be provided in the addenda to the present report.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation for El Salvador and Guatemala (A/61/78-E/2006/61);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation for selected countries and regions (A/61/209);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development (A/61/313).

4. At the 11th meeting, on 11 October, introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Promotion of the Humanitarian Agenda Unit, Policy Development and Studies Branch, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the Programme and Development Adviser, Mine Action Unit, United Nations Development Programme; and the President of the White Helmets Commission, Argentina.